

**DETAILED ACTION**

1. Claims 1-10, 21-30, 40, and 41 are allowed. These claims have been renumbered as claims 1-22.
2. Claims 11-20 and 31-39 have been cancelled.

***EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT***

3. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in an interview with James Morris on January 30, 2009.

4. Claims 40 and 41 have been cancelled as follows:

40. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium having computer executable components for collecting information about one or more applications on a computer, comprising:

a selection component configured to select the most reliable source for obtaining information regarding attributes about an application on the computer and cause the collection component to retrieve the particular attributes from the most reliable source;

a collection component operable to:

extract from the computer information including the computer operating system, hardware, and processor and storing the system information in a log file in a standardized language;

for each executable on the computer, determining if the executable is associated with the operating system;

if the executable is not associated with the operating system, the collection component is further configured to generate a signature based on a set of attributes that are unique to the executable obtained from the source identified by the selection component;

wherein to generate a signature based on a set of attributes that are unique to the executable includes enumerating through a plurality of files to identify each executable that is linked to the application; and

a compatibility component configured to compare signatures of each executable obtained by the collection component to a compatibility database and determine whether an incompatibility exists between two or more applications installed on the computer based on the result of the signature comparison.

41. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable storage medium as recited in Claim 40, wherein to generate a signature based on a set of attributes that are unique to the executable from the source identified by the selection component includes providing a standard XML reporting schema to represent attributes of an application in a hierarchical manner and wherein to determine whether an incompatibility exists

between two or more applications installed on the computer includes serializing and deserializing information obtained by the collection component between XML and a non-hierarchical data format.

### **REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE**

5. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

The prior art of record does not render obvious to one ordinarily skilled in the art at the time of applicant's invention nor anticipate the combination of claimed elements including "(c) for each executable whose information is extracted, determining if the executable is associated with the operating system, storing information about the executable in the log file, the stored executable information including attributes determined by the executables, each executable including a plurality of associated attributes, the attributes including at least one attribute, other than a version number, in the standardized language; (d) extracting from the computer information regarding the application programs installed on the computer including linked executables and storing the application program information in the log file in a standardized language, the application program information including attributes determined by the application programs including the linked executables; and (e) deriving a signature for each of the executables, the signature being based on more than one of the plurality of attributes associated with the related executable and storing the resultant signatures in the log file

in the standardized language” recited in independent claim 1 and similarly recited in independent claims 21 and 40.

The remaining claims are dependent claims, thus these claims are patently distinct over the art of record for at least the above reasons.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled “Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance.”

***Name of Contact***

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Cheryl Lewis whose telephone number is (571) 272-4113. The examiner can normally be reached on 6:30-3:00. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Cottingham can be reached on (571) 272-7079. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

(571) 273-4113 (Use this FAX #, only after approval by Examiner, for “INFORMAL” or “DRAFT” communication. Examiners may request that a formal paper/amendment be faxed directly to them on occasions.).

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist/ Technology Center (571) 272-2100.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Cheryl Lewis/  
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2167  
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